SCRIP TALK

November/December 2009 *Volume # 37* *Issue # 157*

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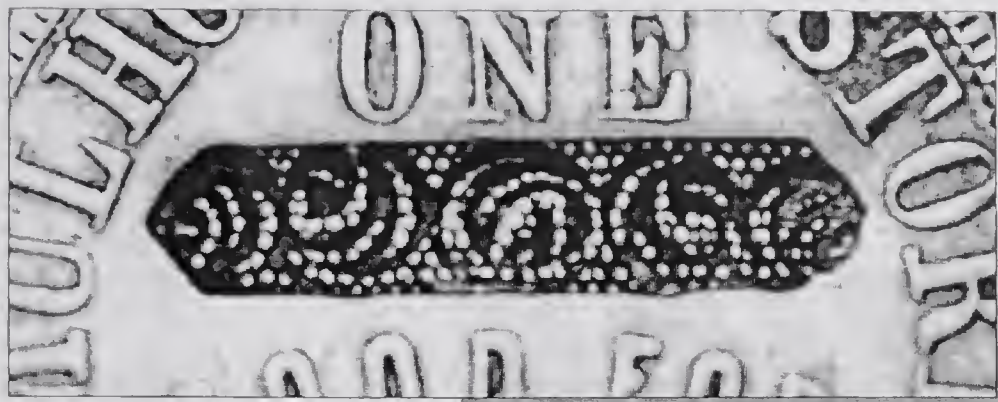
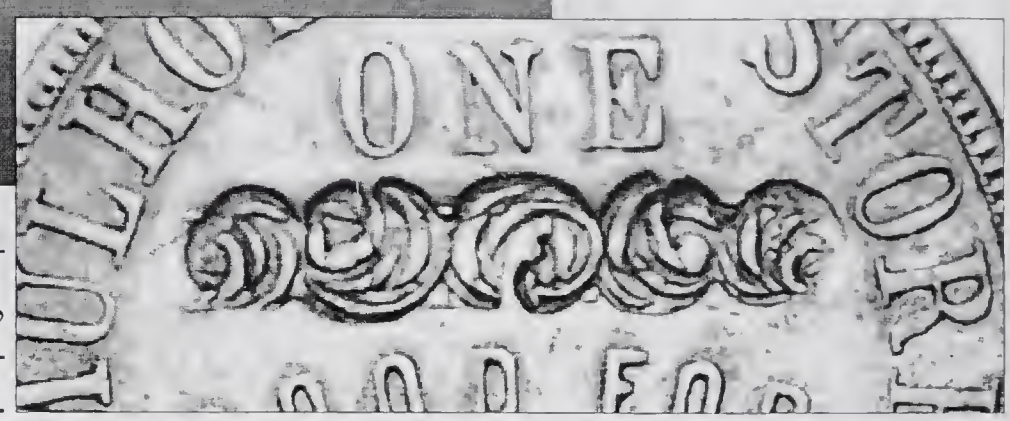
After working for John Stanton from 1855 to 1861, James Murdock, Jr. opened his own establishment. In the mid 1860s, with William W. Spencer, he purchased Stanton's business and the company became known as Murdock & Spencer. Around 1870 Murdock bought out his partner and operated the business alone at 139 West 5th Street, Cincinnati, under the name James Murdock, Jr. In 1875 he relocated to 165 Race Street, and later operated at various other addresses. In the early 1900s the firm became known as James Murdock Jr. & Company, and evidently later to the Murdock Stamp and Specialty Company.

Murdock's business was purchased by Wiley Osborne circa 1920, at which time Osborne established the Osborne Register Company. Interestingly, a 1930 directory lists the Murdock Stamp and Specialty Company still in business, at 123 W. Pearl Street. I imagine by this time the firm was no longer manufacturing tokens and medals.

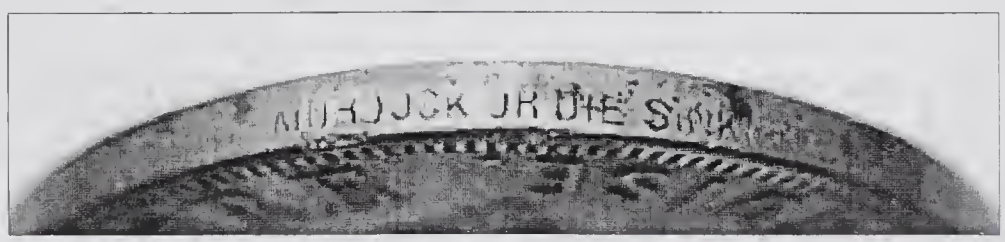
Murdock is best known to collectors of coal mine scrip as the manufacturer of many nineteenth century tokens which were struck using Murdock's distinctive "stock" reverse dies, the design of which consisted of a denomination within a circle of stars. The illustrated token, which has one of these stock reverse die, has been attributed to Mulberry, Kansas. It was issued by the Mulholland Store which was, according to Edkins, company store for the Dickey & Mulholland Coal & Mining Company. Edkins catalogs the token as KS 2011-B100, rarity 10.

These tokens are listed in the book Kansas Trade Tokens with the comment that the Mulholland & Dickey store (notice the order of the names) operated from 1883 to 1906. Dodrill, in 20, 000 Coal Company Stores, has it listed for 1906 and 1907. The die work suggests that the tokens were struck in the late nineteenth century.





The Mulholland tokens are noteworthy for two reasons. First, a word on the obverse, which I assume to have been DOLLAR, has been deleted. I can't imagine why this was done, unless for some legal reason. In any event, it was done by hand, as can be seen by comparing the close-up illustrations of two pieces. Other denominations of the token are known, and the denomination has been deleted in a similar fashion on every example I've seen. Edkins speculates that it was done "when the company cancelled the pieces." This doesn't seem probable to me; if that were the case it would have been much simpler (and quicker) to simply use a large "X" punch across each side, or something of the sort.



Another very interesting thing about the Mulholland tokens is the fact that the die sinker has "signed" them by putting his name and address – JAS MURDOCK JR. DIE SINKER 165 RACE ST. CIN'TI. O. – in incuse letters on the edge. Over the years I've seen a few other Murdock tokens that were signed this way, and I always wondered why he did so.

It pays to advertise, and for that reason many die sinkers signed their work. However, they normally did it either on the obverse or reverse die where it would be readily seen, not on the edge where most people would never notice it. Of course it is possible that Murdock did so as an anti-counterfeiting measure. But if so, why did he do it on so few tokens?

(This column will discuss various unusual tokens or paper scrip used by mining companies. Comments or questions may be emailed to me at dave@turtlehillbanjo.com or mailed to P.O. Box 366, Bryantown, MD 20617.)

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Starting Date: 11/20/09 ***Ending Date: 12/20/09***

Lot #	Scrip #	Company and Town	R rating	Condition	Min. bid
1	VA 2495-E5	United Collieries, Inc. (St. Charles)	R-7	very good	$15.00
2	VA 2495-F100	United Coal Mining Corporation (St. Charles)	R-3	very good	$5.00
3	VA 2495-V500	The Virginia-Lee Company, St. Charles, Va	R-7	very good	$15.00
4	VA 2495-A25	Panther Coal Co., Roseann, Va	R-3	very good	$8.00
5	VA 2255-P50	The Pocahontas Corporation (Pocahontas)	R-7	very good	$22.00
6	VA 2255-P25	The Pocahontas Corporation (Pocahontas)	R-6	very good	$18.00
7	VA 2741-A50	Kennedy Coal Company (Swords Creek)	R-5	very good	$8.00
8	VA 2807-G500	Blue Diamond Coal Co., Toms Creek, Va	R-6	very good	$20.00
9	VA 1451-A10	Jewell Ridge Coal Corp., Jewell Valley, Va	R-5	very good	$15.00
10	VA 731-B5a	Clinchfield Coal Corp. (Dante, Va)	R-9	very good	$75.00
11	VA Merchant $5.00	E.M. Schwartz, Sperryville, Va	no listing	very good	$20.00
12	VA Merchant 50¢	H.M. Burge Co., Inc., Appomattox, Va	no listing	very good	$20.00
13	VA Merchant 25¢	H.M. Burge Co., Inc., Appomattox, Va	no listing	very good	$20.00
14	VA Merchant 10¢	H.M. Burge Co., Inc., Appomattox, Va	no listing	very good	$20.00
15	VA Merchant 5¢	H.M. Burge Co., Inc., Appomattox, Va	no listing	very good	$20.00
16	VA Merchant $1.00	Crawford & Wilberger, New Hope, Va	no listing	very good	$20.00
17	KY 151-B5b	Fordson Coal Co. Incorporated (Banner Fork)	R-7	fine	$25.00
18	KY 3077-A100	The McKinney Steel Company (Wolf Pitt, Ky)	R-10	fine	$100.00
19	KY 267-C10	Major Elkhorn Coal Co., Big Shoal, Ky	R-9	fine	$75.00
20	KY 483-A25	Ky Cardinal Coal Corp., Cardinal, Ky	R-8	very good	$25.00
21	KY 1331-B50	Morning Glow Coal Co., Hima, Ky	R-7	fine	$15.00
22	KY 1331-A25	Morning Glow Coal Co., Hima, Ky	R-7	fine	$15.00
23	KY 2797-A100	Buchanan Coal Company, Tip Top, Ky	R-8	fine	$40.00
24	KY 151-B500	Fordson Coal Co., Banner Fork	R-4	very good	$25.00
25	KY 841-G100	Stallard Elkhorn Coal Co. (Drift)	R-9	very good	$40.00
26	KY 1049-A100	Nagola Elkhorn Coal Co. No. 1 (Fleming)	R-6	very good	$15.00
27	KY 2541-A100	Scuddy Coal Company, Inc., Scuddy, Ky	R-10	very good	$75.00
28	KY 2541-A10	Scuddy Coal Company, Inc., Scuddy, Ky	R-9	very good	$35.00
29	KY 309-L1b	Blue Diamond Coal Co. (Blue Diamond)	R-8	very good	$10.00
30	KY 31-A100	Ajax Coal Co. (Ajax)	R-3	very good	$5.00
31	KY 31-A10	Ajax Coal Co. (Ajax)	R-3	very good	$5.00
32	KY 787-B5a	Fourseam Coal Corporation, Diablock, Ky	R-4	very good	$5.00
33	KY 787-B10	Fourseam Coal Corporation, Diablock, Ky	R-5	very good	$7.00
34	KY 1255-C5	Harvey Coal Corporation, Harveyton, Ky	R-6	very good	$10.00
35	KY 467-A100	Atlas Coal Company, Capito, Ky	R-3	very good	$5.00
36	KY 1897-M5	Garmeada Coal Co., Inc., Middlesboro, Ky	R-5	very good	$7.00
37	KY 867-C50a	T.P. Watkins, East Bernstadt, Ky	R-5	very good	$8.00
38	KY 867-C25	T.P. Watkins, East Bernstadt, Ky	R-5	very good	$8.00
39	KY 1879-G5	Pacific Coal Co., Inc., Mercer, Ky	R-4	very good	$5.00
40	KY 1879-H5	Pacific Coal Co., Inc., Mercer, Ky	R-4	very good	$5.00
41	KY 2197-B25	C.E. Flanary Store (Pee-Vee, Ky)	R-3	very good	$5.00
42	KY 2197-B10	C.E. Flanary Store (Pee-Vee, Ky)	R-3	very good	$5.00
43	KY 2197-B5	C.E. Flanary Store (Pee-Vee, Ky)	R-3	very good	$5.00
44	KY 87-G100a	Fayette Jellico Coal Co., Anchor, Ky	R-5	very good	$7.00
45	KY 87-G25a	Fayette Jellico Coal Co., Anchor, Ky	R-3	very good	$5.00

Continued on Next Page

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Lot #	Scrip #	Company and Town	R rating	Condition	Min. bid
46	WV 1477-M500	Oglebay Norton Co., Kayford, W Va	R-6	very good	$10.00
47	WV 469-A500	The Carbon Fuel Co., Carbon, W Va	R-6	very good	$10.00
48	WV 81-H500	Amherst Coal Company, Amherstdale, W Va	R-6	very good	$10.00
49	WV 2795-D500	Delphi Supply Co. (Tioga)	R-8	very good	$15.00
50	WV 1952-A500	Morris Smokeless Coal Co., Morco, W Va	R-5	fine	$10.00
51	WV 1952-A100	Morris Smokeless Coal Co., Morco, W Va	R-6	fine	$10.00
52	WV 967-J100	Ames Mining Co., Logan Div. (Ethel)	R-5	very good	$7.00
53	WV 967-J50	Ames Mining Co., Logan Div. (Ethel)	R-5	very good	$7.00
54	WV 967-J25	Ames Mining Co., Logan Div. (Ethel)	R-5	very good	$7.00
55	WV 2453-A100	Seneca Stores Co (Roncverte) (Pictorial Indian)	R-4	very good	$7.00
56	WV 2453-A5	Seneca Stores Co (Roncverte) (Pictorial Indian)	R-7	very good	$15.00
57	WV 1613-A25	Nelson Fuel Co. (Leslie) (Pictorial Ship)	R-8	very good	$20.00
58	WV 1613-A10	Nelson Fuel Co. (Leslie) (Pictorial Ship)	R-8	very good	$20.00
59	WV 47-C100	Lamar Colliery Co., Algonquin, W Va	R-7	very good	$10.00
60	WV 47-C50	Lamar Colliery Co., Algonquin, W Va	R-6	very good	$10.00
61	WV 2571-D50	Wyatt Coal Co., Sharon, W Va	R-5	fine	$8.00
62	WV 2571-D25	Wyatt Coal Co., Sharon, W Va	R-5	fine	$8.00
63	WV 2483-A50	F.E. Summers Dept. Stores Co., Rumble, W Va	R-8	very good	$20.00
64	WV 3013-H10	Blue Star Store Co. (Whitesville)	R-6	very good	$5.00
65	WV 3013-H5	Blue Star Store Co. (Whitesville)	R-4	very good	$5.00
66	WV 2661-A50	Buckeye Coal & Coke Company, Stephenson, W Va	R-8	very good	$18.00
67	WV 2661-A25a	Buckeye Coal & Coke Company, Stephenson, W Va	R-6	very good	$10.00
68	WV 1017-B50	Scotia Coal & Coke, Finlow	R-3	very good	$6.00
69	WV 1017-A10	Scotia Coal & Coke, Finlow	R-3	very good	$6.00
70	WV 2473-B50	Royal Mining Company, Royal, W Va	R-8	very good	$15.00
71	WV 473-B25	Kanawha & Hocking C & C, Co., Carbondale	R-6	fine	$12.00
72	WV 551-B100	The New Export Coal Co. (Cinco)	R-5	very good	$10.00
73	WV 769-C100a	New Era Coal Co., Delbarton, W Va	R-3	very good	$5.00
74	WV 2771-A100	Thacker Coal & Coke Co., Thacker Mines, W Va	R-3	very good	$5.00
75	WV 2637-G100	The Mary-Martha Coal Mining Co., Sprigg, W Va	R-6	very good	$10.00
76	WV 2915-A100	Vulcan Colliery, Vulcan, W Va	R-9	very good	$50.00
77	WV 83-A100	Amigo Coal Co., Amigo	R-6	very good	$10.00
78	WV 83-A50	Amigo Coal Co., Amigo	R-6	very good	$10.00
79	WV 83-A25	Amigo Coal Co., Amigo	R-6	very good	$10.00
80	WV 967-K100	Ethel Block Coal Co., Ethel, W Va	R-3	very good	$6.00
81	WV 3093-C100	United Pocahontas Coal Co. Indian Ridge (Worth)	R-3	very good	$6.00
82	WV 2723-I50	Lake Superior Coal Co., Superior, W Va	R-4	very good	$5.00
83	WV 2641-A5	Jacob's Fork Pocahontas Coal Co., Squire, W Va	R-5	very good	$5.00
84	WV 899-B1b	Houston C & C Co., Elkhorn	R-6	very good	$10.00
85	WV 1509-B1	Keystone Coal & Coke, Keystone, W Va	R-8	very good	$15.00
86	WV 2219-B100	American Coal Co., Piedmont	R-4	very good	$5.00
87	WV 1819-A50	Pawama Coal & Coke Co. (Matoaka)	R-6	very good	$10.00
88	WV 505-F100	Continental Coal Co. Store, Cassville, W Va	R-5	very good	$5.00
89	WV 1943-C50	F.K. Lowe's Meat Market, Monongah, W Va (Bi-Metal)	R-4	very good	$5.00
90	WV 1943-C25	F.K. Lowe's Meat Market, Monongah, W Va (Bi-Metal)	R-3	very good	$5.00

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A10b B 21 Rd Sd MMISC Pat. Pend. / In Trade

ANCHOR, KENTUCKY 87 (KNOX)
Anchor / Mining Co. / Anchor, Ky.
J25 N 25 Rd Co Good For / 25 / In Merchandise

The Dean / Jellico / Coal Co. / Anchor, Ky.
B100 B 33 Rd Sd Good For / 100 / In Merchandise

Wheeler Coal Co. / Store / No 3 / Anchor, Ky.
M10 Bi 23 Oc Sd Good For / (star) / 10 / (star) /In Merchandise

Wheeler Coal Co. / Store / No 3/5 / Anchor, Ky.
D5b Np 20 Rd Co Insurance Credit System

ARTEMUS, KENTUCKY 117 (KNOX)
The Artemus Jellico / 1901 / Coal Co.
C10 B ? ? ? Good For / 10 / In Merchandise

The Bennett Jellico Coal Co / Artemus, / Kentucky
E5 19 Rd Sd Good For / 5 / In Merchandise
E10 B 23 Sq Sd Good For / 10 / In Merchandise
E25 B 25 Oc Sd Good For / 25 / In Merchandise

J. M. Martin / & / Son / Artemus, Ky.
D5 20 Rd Sd Good For / 5 / In Merchandise

BAILEY'S SWITCH, KENTUCKY 140 (KNOX)
Bailey Coal Co. / Baileys / Ky. / Switch
A5 A 20 Rd Sd Good For / 5 / In Merchandise

BARBOURVILLE, KENTUCKY 153 (KNOX)
K. D. Gem Coal Co. / Barbourville / Ky
A25 ? ? ? Good For / 25 / In Merchandise

Smith, Riley / & Co. / Incorporated / Bourbourville / Ky.
D100 B Rd Sd Good For / 100 / In Merchandise

BARREN FORK, KENTUCKY 163 (Mc CREARY)
The Eagle Stores Co., / Inc. / 5
C5b B 19 Rd Co Insurance Credit System

BEECH CREEK, KENTUCKY 193 (MUHLENBERG)
Kirk Mercantile / Co. / Beech Creek, Ky.
B500 N 32 Rd Sd Good For / 500 / In Merchandise

BELL-JELLICO, KENTUCKY 207 (BELL)
Bell-Jellico Coal Co. / 1905 / Bell-Jellico, Ky.
A25 ? ? ? Payable / 25 / (star) / In Merchandise / Wright & Son – Cin. O.

BLANCHE, KENTUCKY 297 (BELL)
Big Jim Coal Co. / BJC / Blanche, Ky.
G100 B 32 Rd Co Orco 1939

BLUE DIAMOND, KENTUCKY 309 (PERRY)
Blue Diamond Coal Co. / 100 / Blue Diamond , Ky.
P100 B 32 Rd Co Orco Pat. Pend.

BRADEL, KENTUCKY 354 (KNOX)
New Trosper / Coal Co. / 1917 / Bradel, Ky.
A25 A ? Rd Sd Good For / 25 / In Merchandise
A100 A 33 Rd Sd Good For / 100 / In Merchandise

BROWDER, KENTUCKY 387 (MUHLENBER)
W. A. Wickliffe / Coal Co. / 500 / Browder, Ky.
B500 B 32 Sc Co Orco Pat Pend. (6 diamonds)
(12 Scallops)
E500 B Sc Co Orco 1948 (12 Scallops)

CAIRNES, KENTUCKY 431 (BELL)
Cairnes Coal Mining Co. / Cairnes, Ky.
B50 B 28 RD Sd Good For / 50 / In / Merchandise

ELITE, KENTUCKY 893 (WHITLEY)
Elite Coal Co. / Elite, / Ky.
A5 B 20 Rd Sd Merchandise / 5 / Only / Wright & Son. Cin. O
A10 ? ? ? Merchandise / 10 / Only / Wright & Son. Cin. O.

FLAT LICK, KENTUCKY 1026 (KNOX)
Ely Jellico / Coal Co. / Flat Lick, Ky. / Commissary / Dept.
A25 B 22 Rd Sd Good For / 25 / Cents / In Merchandise

FONDE, KENTUCKY 1041 (BELL)
Clear Fork Coal Co. Inc. / 1 / Fonde, Ky.
D1b Fr 21 Sc Sd In Merchandise Only (8 Scallops)
D1c Fr 21 Sc Sd In Merchandise. Not Transferable
(8 Scallops)

FORK RIDGE, KENTUCKY 1045 (BELL)
Fork Ridge Coal & Coke Company / 25 / Fork Ridge, Ky.
A25 B 24 Rd Co Orco Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.
(6 Diamonds)

FOUR MILE, KENTUCKY 1055 (BELL)
Bell Co Coal Co. / 1908 / Four Mile
I25 B 30 Rd Sd 16 Stars – 25 in Circle

HARLAN, KENTUCKY 1231 (HARLAN)
Shawnee Gas Coal Co. / Harlan, Ky.
L5 B 20 Oc Sd Good For / 5c / In Merchandise

HEINER, KENTUCKY, 1283 (PERRY)
Kentucky River Coal Mining Co. / 5
F5 Np 19 Rd Co Ins. Credit System / Dayton O. / In Trade

HIGNITE, KENTUCKY 1324 (BELL)
Hignite Coal Mining Co.
C25 A ? Rd Sd Good For / 25 / In / Merchandise

HOFFMAN, KENTUCKY 1340 (WHITLEY)
Good For / Mdse / Hoffman / & Berry
A5 B 20 Rd ? 5 / Wright & Son / Cinti. O.
A25 ? ? ? 25 / Wright & Son / Cinti. O.

HITCHINS, KENTUCKY 1336 (CARTER)
Olice Hill Firebrick Co. Inc / Olive Hill / Ky.
C5 Al 19 Rd Sd Good For / 5 / In Merchandise
C10 Al 24 Rd Sd Good For / 10 / In Merchandise
C25 ? ? ? ? Good For / 25 / In Merchandise
C50 Al 32 Rd Sd Good For / * 50 * / In Merchandise
C100 ? ? ? ? ? Good For / 100 / In Merchandise
D5 B 19 Rd Sd Good For / 5 / In Merchandise
D50 B 32 Rd Sd Good For / 50 / In Merchandise
D100 B 35 Rd Sd Good For / 100 / In Merchandise

ISLAND, KENTUCKY 1413 (MC LEAN)
Windtop Coal / 5 / Island, Ky.
D5 B 22 RD Sd Merchandise / 5c / Order

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WANT YOUR NORTH CAROLINA TOKENS I will send a check with self addressed, postage paid shipper. You only need to insert tokens, tape up well and mail. Bob King, 709 Cardinal Drive, Brevard, NC 28712 828-883-8028 tokenaddict@citcom.net +

WILL PAY $50.00 FOR ANY TOKEN ON MY R1 THRU R5 WV WANT LIST. Will mail list on request. Billy Campbell, 125 Cambridge Trail, Madison, AL 35758 bwcok@knology.net +

WANTED: WEST VIRGINIA MERCHANT TRADE TOKENS, lumber scrip, encased cents, and Greenbrier County Coal Scrip Donald Clifford, P.O. Box 65, St. Albans, WV 25177-0065 email CLFF635@aol.com +

WANTED: TN TOKENS, DUN & BRADSTREET'S, obsolete and National banknotes, medals. I have many tokens for trade from several states. Also, want Southern C.C.C. and saloon tokens. Joe Copeland, P.O. Box 4221, Oak Ridge, TN 37831 865-482-4215 joecopeland@comcast.net +

TOP DOLLARS PAID FOR CARBIDE CAP LAMPS, oil wick/lard lamps, blasting cap tins, scatter tags, carbide lamp parts and other small mining artifacts that I may need in my collection. I will pay more than anyone for items needed for my collection. Contact Larry Click, 1021 N. Jefferson St., Arlington, VA 22205-2454, 703-241-3748 or email LarryClick@msn.com +

FLORIDA TOKENS WANTED – FLORIDA TOKENS OF ALL TYPES WANTED. Send 61¢ stamp for free sample of Florida Token Society's newsletter, TOKENEWS and request free Florida token. Check out the Florida Token Society web site: http://www.steve.ratliff.com/fts/- you can join and pay dues on-line! Steve Ratliff, 1717 Saint Marys Bay Drive, Milton, FL 32583-7343 Steve@Ratliff.com check out my EBay sales, many pieces of coal scrip. All starting at 99 cents. Search florida-token-collector, be sure to click box for "Include title and description."

WANTED: MOUNDSVILLE SUPPLY COMPANY, Moundsville, WV #1981-A1 – A5. Write or call. Charles Miller, 200W-900N, Wawaka, IN 46794 260-336-5130 +

TRADING EXPLODERS, LUMBER, COAL, transportation tokens, casino chips, hobo nickels. 2-stamps for list. Gene Miller, 3306 Startan Ct., Louisville, KY 40220

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